Communication facilities in Rural Areas

†2493. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to provide communication facilities in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Base Terminal Stations (BTSs) have been planned to cover all the Short Distance Charge Areas (SDCAs) for providing Telecommunication facility. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already placed order for procurement of 10.26 Lakh lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment and supply of the equipment has commenced. In addition, 15 Lakh lines of Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based WLL connections have also been planned. Further, a Purchase Order for the procurement of 15 Lakh of Fixed Wireless Telephones (FWTs) has also been issued.

14,183 Digital Satellite Phone Terminals have also been planned for remote and far flung areas to provide communication facilities.

Early warning system under Global Earth Observation Satellite System

2494. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of being part of a global network for establishing a Tsunami early warning system under the UN umbrella or the International Global Earth Observation Satellite System (GEOSS) under the US leadership, India plans to go on its own;

(b) if so, whether for a reliable and robust timely warning, monitoring and tracking over a large geographical area would be essential; and

(c) the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. India is setting up a Tsunami and Storm Surges Forecasting and Early Warning System suitable for the Indian Ocean. We shall be interacting with other international agencies including Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A tsunami and storm surges warning system is proposed to be set up with the following components;—

Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.

Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.

Tide gauge and data buoys networking.

Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.

The establishment of a centre for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

Control on different rates of Cellular and WLL Telephones

2495. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the different rates by different cellular and WLL service providers in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the control Government have on such rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In terms of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, TRAI has been mandated for fixation of tariff for telecom services. The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 and as amended from time to